



# Wîtaskêwin

*Sharing Success - Shareholder Update*

December 2021



**SIGA CEO & President**  
Zane Hansen

## COVID-19 Update

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, this has been one of the most difficult periods for SIGA, our First Nations, families, and our communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching impacts across the organization and across the world that will be felt for some time. Under the provincial Public Health Orders, SIGA Casinos were required to close over several periods of time, totalling more than 10 months.

With SIGA's operations closed for a majority of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, there was limited opportunity to generate revenue, resulting in a net loss of \$18.6 million.

As a non-profit where 100 per cent of our earnings are returned to our beneficiaries, through our distribution model, this has made it challenging for SIGA to sustain closures for any period of time. The Board and Management worked diligently to mitigate the disruptive impacts brought on by COVID-19. Closures and operating restrictions brought many difficult decisions that were needed to ensure the

preservation of the company. We will now focus efforts on rebuilding, as conditions permit.

SIGA remained closed for the majority of Q1 in 2021-2022 and opened on June 20 to a 150-occupancy limit.

Q2, saw no restrictions by July 11 and strong results due to pent up demand. Revenues were dominated by slot play with lesser interest in tables. Food and Beverage demand has also been subdued at 60 per cent of pre-Covid demand.

Pent up demand wave began to taper down in September 2021 and also due to a new Public Health Order on October 1, 2021, requiring vaccine proof or negative test to enter casinos, which caused a decline in patron volumes. On October 21, revenues were 80 per cent of pre-Covid levels.

Current forecasted net earnings for 2021-22 are \$50.9 million and provided conditions remain relatively stable.

## Newest COVID-19 News and Projections

- Daily hospital and ICU admissions have decreased 29% and 41%, respectively from two weeks ago.
- The non-ICU and ICU census has decreased 30% and 22% respectively from two weeks ago.
- Among western provinces, Saskatchewan remains first for hospitalizations and ICU census per 100,000.
- ~67% of COVID admissions to ICU were within 24 hours of admission to hospital.
- The Saskatchewan Public Health Order requiring indoor masking and proof of vaccination or negative test has been extended to January 31, 2021.

***SIGA will continue to be vigilant with our health and safety programing for both our customers and employees.***



## Employment Statistics

SIGA's Location Employment Status Report as of October 25, 2021									
	BCCH	CO	DDC	GEC	GHC	LSC	NLC	PHC	SIGA Totals
Active Employees	77	136	217	135	120	88	197	99	1069
Employees on Paid Leave	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other leaves	8	6	14	14	7	9	15	20	93
<b>Total SIGA Employees</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>1162</b>
Active FN Employees #	56	83	160	91	65	15	166	72	708
Active FN Employees %	73%	61%	74%	67%	54%	17%	84%	73%	66%

## Sharing Success

SIGA has learned and improved on its processes during this period of transition and has implemented many new processes, including a new organizational structure to streamline operations and new lines of business which will be coming on board in 2022, including a new Online Gaming Platform and single event sports betting online and in-house at casinos.

As operational revenues recover and stabilize, SIGA will return to its roots of Sharing Success with our employees and the larger community.

As we continue to exit this global pandemic, we will begin to reintroduce some of the previous program offerings for our employees. There has been a reinstatement of several employee benefits including General Assembly with Long Service Awards is planned at each SIGA location in the months of December and January, to recognize both 2019-20 and 2020-21 recipients, as well as the resumption of several other employee benefits.

Our focus going forward will be to increase our marketing campaigns to enhance the customer experience.

In addition to re-investing in our gaming product and food and beverage services to support our new sports betting program.

In 2022-23 SIGA will resume the Community Investment programming and investments to Share Success back into the communities once again.

We will continue to strive to be a game-changing organization focused on First Nations employment and generating economic opportunities and benefits for the 74 communities that we serve.



Zane Hansen

## Online Gaming Operating Agreement Signing (OGO) at SIGA Central Office

With the signing of the GFA 2021 Amending Agreement on Sept 23, 2021 attention then focused on concluding the online operating agreement (OGO) which was officially signed at SIGA on November 5, 2021.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for vendors for the online gaming platform was developed concurrently and issued out following the GFA signing on September 23.

SIGA is currently in the process of vetting and shortlisting RFP proposals.

A final decision is expected to be made in December 2021 on a vendor for the online gaming site. Once a vendor is successfully selected, the platform setup for Online Gaming is expected to take four months to complete.



**Pictured: (Left to Right) SIGA Chair Reg Bellerose, SaskGaming President Susan Flett, SIGA President Zane Hansen, SIGA Board Member and Whitecap First Nation Chief Darcy Bear.**

## Single Event Sports Betting

SIGA was an important player in supporting the federal Bill C-218 which came into effect August 27, 2021 to legalize single event sports betting in Canada.

With this new line of business, SIGA expects revenue and job creation through a sports betting section on the new Online Gaming portal, as well as sports book desks on-site at casino locations for guests to place their bets on major sporting events.

*[Pictured Above: Proposed Sports Book Lounge at DDC]*

## Orange Shirt Day - Sept. 30

SIGA observed and participated in the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (previously observed as Orange Shirt Day) on Thursday, September 30, 2021. SIGA's Board of Directors and Executive recognized the Day as a statutory holiday as a demonstration of SIGA's commitment to supporting residential school survivors and raising awareness of Canada's true history.

Establishing a national holiday to commemorate the tragic legacy of residential schools in Canada was one of the 94 recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The holiday is accompanied by educational campaigns similar to Remembrance Day, creating an opportunity to educate and remind Canadians about the history of residential schools, honour the victims and celebrate the survivors.

The day coincides with Orange Shirt Day, which began in 2013 and involves wearing orange

shirts to honour Indigenous children forced to leave their families to attend residential schools. The orange shirt came to symbolize the experiences and abuse suffered by children at residential schools after Phyllis Webstad, a member of the Stswecem'c Gatem First Nation, shared the story of her first day going to school on the Dog Creek reserve in British Columbia.

During the Week a series of activities were held at SIGA Central Office and individual casino locations to provide education and awareness to

SIGA staff on the significance of National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Staff at all locations were given orange shirts to wear on the Day and to wear throughout the week. A ceremonial smudge was held at SIGA Central Office, and formal Orange Shirt Day walks and Orange Shirt cookies were planned at each location.

SIGA launched both external and internal educational campaigns for the Week.

Externally, SIGA had several creatives developed with

awareness messaging which ran on social media channels and on Cool Signs (TV screens) at casino locations.

Educational displays and posters were set up at all locations to educate guests and staff on the significance and importance of what happened in residential schools.

SIGA also partnered with the FSIN in sponsoring a province-wide radio campaign which interviewed residential school survivors and told their stories.

*[Below: Orange Shirt Day at CO]*



## Board of Directors



Touchwood Agency Tribal Council (TATC)  
**REGINALD BELLEROSE, BOARD CHAIR**  
Muskowekwan First Nation



Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC)  
**CHIEF TAMMY COOK-SEARSON**  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)



Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Inc. (BATC)  
**CHIEF LARRY AHENAKEW**  
Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation



Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC)  
**CHIEF DARCY BEAR**  
Whitecap Dakota First Nation



Battleford Tribal Council (BTC)  
**KEVIN POOCK, CFP**  
Battleford, SK



Yorkton Tribal Council (YTC)  
**CHIEF LEE KITCHEMONIA**  
Keeseekoosewa First Nation



Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN)  
**CHIEF BOBBY CAMERON**  
Witcheekan Lake First Nation



External Board Member  
**CAROLE BRYANT, MBA, CPA**  
Regina, SK



File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC)  
**CHIEF MICHAEL STARR**  
Star Blanket Cree Nation



FSIN Senate  
**SENATOR JOHN CHARLES THOMAS**  
Advisor – Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation



Independent First Nations Association (IFNA)  
**CHIEF CALVIN SANDERSON**  
Chakastaypasin First Nation



Resident Elder  
**JOE QUEWEZANCE**  
Yellow Quill First Nation



Meadow Lake Tribal Council (MLTC)  
**TRIBAL CHIEF RICHARD BEN**  
Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation

\* Agency Chiefs Tribal Council (ACTC) (VACANT)  
\* Southeast Treaty #4 Tribal Council (SET#4) (PENDING)

### \*CORRECTION FROM DEC. EDITION\*

*In the Board of Directors listing in the newsletter published and distributed in December 2021, a board member was referenced with an incorrect title. This was an oversight on SIGA's part.*

*Board member Kevin Poock was incorrectly referred to as Chief Kevin Poock. SIGA apologizes for the publication error and any inconvenience.*

SIGA employees participated organization-wide in Orange Shirt Day (National Truth & Reconciliation Day). Photo featured on previous page is of employees in front of SIGA Central Office. Below are photos submitted by SIGA casinos.



*[Photo Captions: Top left to right - Living Sky Casino, Northern Lights Casino, Orange Shirt Day cookies - Gold Eagle Casino, Dakota Dunes Casino, Painted Hand Casino, Gold Horse Casino, Bear Claw Casino.]*





103 Aspen Place,  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7N 1K4

**306.477.7777**



**SIGA**

**SIGA.ca**